Lignite-cum-power project in Rajasthan

344. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has failed to implement the Barsingsar (Rajasthan) lignite-cum-power project even after lapse of about 14 years;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factor responsible for failure of NLC in implementing the project; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No Sir. The Lignite-Cum-Power-Project at Barsingsar, Rajasthan has been sanctioned by Government of India on 15.12.2004. The project would be commissioned in December, 2008 as per the sanction.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of Answer given to (a) above.

Approval of new coal mining project

345. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Ministry of Coal to expedite the approval of new mining projects in view of the acute shortage of coal by the power, cement and steel industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that currently there is a gap of about 27 million tonnes between the demand and supply of coal; and

(c) if so, the steps Ministry proposes to take to start new mining projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Coal have taken appropriate steps to expedite the approval of new mining projects in view of increased projected demand.

(b) Against the all India coal demand of 473.18 Mt in 2006-07, the indigenous availability is projected at 431.50 Mt. leaving a gap of 41.68 Mt.

(c) Coal India Limited has identified 101 new projects to be taken up during the X Plan period. Out of these 64 projects have already been approved which will contribute 72.48 Mt in 2006-07. The remaining projects are in different stages of approval. On approval, these 101 projects will provide an additional capacity of 250.27 Mt.

Accidents in coal mines

346. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing number of accidents in coal mines in the recent years due to lack of infrastructure for safety;

(b) the details of accidents and casualties occurred during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for coal workers safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As reported by DGMS, there has been marginal increase in the number of accidents in coal mines in recent years. However, this increase is not attributable to lack of infrastructure for safety.

(b) The details of accidents and casualties taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years are as follows:

	Fatal			Serious	
Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured	No. of serious accidents	No. of persons seriously injured
2002	81	97	15	629	650
2003	83	113	12	563	578
2004	90	99	14	599	608

* Data for 2004 is provisional.